

**Adopting And Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Purchase Of The Former Sophie Finn Elementary School From The Kingston Consolidated School District And Its Rehabilitation For Use As The SUNY Ulster Extension Center – Department Of Planning**

Referred to: The Environmental, Energy, and Technology Committee (Chairman Belfiglio and Legislators Bartels, Lopez, Wawro and Wishnick) and The Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee (Chairman Harris and Legislators Donaldson, Gregorius, Lopez and Wawro)

Chairman of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee, Wayne Harris, and Deputy Chairman David B. Donaldson offer the following:

WHEREAS, Ulster County is moving forward with implementation of the Strategic Taxpayer Relief through Innovative Visions in Education (“STRIVE”) Project; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature in Resolution No. 300 of November 19, 2013 supported the implementation of STRIVE which includes the purchase and rehabilitation of the Sophie Finn Elementary School (“The Project”); and

WHEREAS, the County Legislature created Capital Project No. 370 by Resolution No. 261 dated October 16, 2012, and subsequently amended by Resolution No. 178 dated June 18, 2013, for the purpose of authorizing architectural design and engineering work on the Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Action being considered pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 et seq. of the Regulations of Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York State (SEQRA) is the purchase of the Sophie Finn Elementary School located at 94 Mary’s Avenue from the Kingston City School District including a subdivision of land, construction of parking facilities and other improvements, and its rehabilitation for use by SUNY Ulster as an Extension Center; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature, in Resolution No. 261 dated October 16, 2012, declared its intent to serve as Lead Agency under SEQRA and classified the Action thereunder as unlisted pursuant to 6 NYCRR Parts 617.4 and 617.5; and

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WHEREAS, Part 1 of the SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), related Addendum and documentary exhibits were duly circulated and a coordinated review was initiated with all Involved and Interested Agencies pursuant to 6 NYCRR Parts 617.6(a)(1)(iv) and 617.6(b)(3)(i); and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency and its consultants met with the City of Kingston Planning Board and conducted two (2) duly noticed Public Information/Comment meetings on May 9, 2013 and December 12, 2013 at the Sophie Finn School and the Kingston City Hall, Kingston New York respectively in order to disseminate information to the public and receive comments relative to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency in conjunction with its consultants has addressed all SEQRA issues as identified, considered and examined by the Involved and Interested Agencies, members of the public and the Lead Agency and in so doing, has taken a hard look at said areas and made a determination of non-significance under SEQRA (Negative Declaration), a copy of which is annexed to this Resolution and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Lead Agency have read the annexed Negative Declaration, know the contents thereof and desire to adopt and issue said document as Lead Agency under SEQRA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 et seq. of the Regulations of Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York State (SEQRA), the Ulster County Legislature, as Lead Agency, hereby adopts and issues the Negative Declaration under SEQRA upon the vote thereupon and the signature of the Ulster County Legislature Chairman herewith; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that Clerk of the Legislature shall file this Resolution and accompanying Negative Declaration with the Involved and Interested Agencies as enumerated in the Negative Declaration; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, that the adoption of the Negative Declaration shall constitute the SEQRA Decision of approval for the purchase, rehabilitation and use of the of the Sophie Finn Elementary School as an extension center for SUNY Ulster, together with all plans and documents associated therewith;

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Environmental, Energy, and Technology on \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed Committee: Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE